to (f) The Government has been contemplating to involve private sector in construction, maintenance and operation of fee-based facilities on National Highways. In order to elicit views in this regard, a seminar was organised in January, 1992 with representatives from private sector, financial instituions, State Governments etc. A study on various aspects of privatisation, under assistance from Asian Development Bank, has also been got completed recently. Having regard to these developments, the incentives proposed to be given to the private sector in respect of various obligations are yet to be finalised by the Government. It is, therefore, too early to indicate the response by foreign and domestic entrepreneurs about investment in National Highways/Expressways.

Financial Position of Shipping Corporation of India

2584. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the profit earned or loss suffered by the Shipping Corporation of India during the last three years till date;

(b) whether there is any proposal to add more ships to the existing fleet of the Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the foreign assistance proposed to be obtained in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER) : (a) The net profit after tax earned by Shipping Corporation of India for the last three years is as under :—

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	101.1
1990-91	54.5
1991-92 (Provisional)	108.8

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In adition to 9 vessels on order, the Shipping Corporation of India have proposed to place orders for 79 vessels of 28.33 lakhs DWT during the 8th Plan period. Out of these , the Shipping Corporation of India acquired two second-hand vessels of 66,000 DWT in April, 1992 from an Indian company.

(d) For the purpose of financing the acquisition from overseas, foreign exchange loans would be raised through (a) Deferred credit offered by the Shipyards and/or (b) External Commercial Borrowings.

Highway Patrolling in and Around Delhi

2585. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA : SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Highway patrolling scheme in and around Delhi had been abandoned;

(b) what were the objectives of the scheme and the reasons for abondoning the same;

(c) whether in view of the importance of the scheme to ensure smoothness and security of traffic and providing aid to the victims of accidents the scheme is being or has been revived and if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) A pilot highway patrolling scheme was started during 1983-84 and had as one of its main objective the improvement of road safety and enforcement of traffic discipline on the National Highways. Under the scheme, traffic aid posts were also set set up at a distance of 50 to 60 kilometers. This scheme was discontinued in June, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir. The National Highway accident relief scheme, as a pilot project, would be launched, on certain stretches of national highways. Under this scheme, ambulance services for removing of victims of road accidents to the nearest medical centre as well as break-down services for accidented vehicles is envisaged.